









ARE YOU TWO  
LISTENING? THEY

NEARLY KILLED ME.





A comic panel set in a dark, cavernous environment with large, twisted rock formations. On the left, a nun with blonde hair, wearing a black habit with a gold cross and a crown-like headpiece, stands with her hands clasped. On the right, a character with spiky blue hair and a tan shirt is seen from the back, looking down at a small object in their hand. A large speech bubble originates from the nun.

CORRUPT COPS ARE  
ONE THING. EVEN PARASOUL AND  
HER LAPDOGS I CAN DEAL WITH IF I  
HAVE TO, BUT NOW THEY'VE GOT  
FREAKS AND MONSTERS FIGHTING  
ON THEIR SIDE.







WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

LIKE I SAID, ONE  
WAS LIKE A... A MARCHING  
BAND IN A TRENCHCOAT. THE  
OTHER TWISTED REALITY LIKE  
SOME DEMENTED CARTOON.







THE CARTOON, SHE HAD  
ME PINNED, AND HER EYES...  
THEY WEREN'T THERE. IF SHE  
HADN'T HESITATED--

VALENTINE, WHAT  
DO YOU KNOW OF  
THESE CREATIONS?





SOUNDS LIKE  
BIG BAND AND PROJECT  
PEACOCK ANTI-SKULL GIRL



PEACOCK, ANTI-GRUELOIKE  
AGENTS CREATED IN LAB 8.  
I'D STEER CLEAR IF I  
WERE YOU.



AND IF I WERE YOU,  
I'D THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT  
ALERTING ME THE NEXT TIME YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING THAT COULD THREATEN ME. I  
SPARED YOU TO ASSIST IN DEFEATING  
THE MEDICI, BUT I CAN ALWAYS  
RECONSIDER.







CALM  
YOURSELF,  
CHILD.

I DON'T NEED TO  
CALM DOWN, WHAT I NEED IS  
A WAY TO GET THAT LAB AND  
THEIR HOMEMADE ASSASSINS  
OFF MY BACK.



I THINK I CAN



HELP WITH THAT. IN  
FACT, I CAN LEAD  
YOU RIGHT TO THEIR  
FRONT DOOR.

BUT TO GET  
YOU INSIDE...

WE'LL

NEED TO VISIT  
ANOTHER OF MY  
OLD HAUNTS.

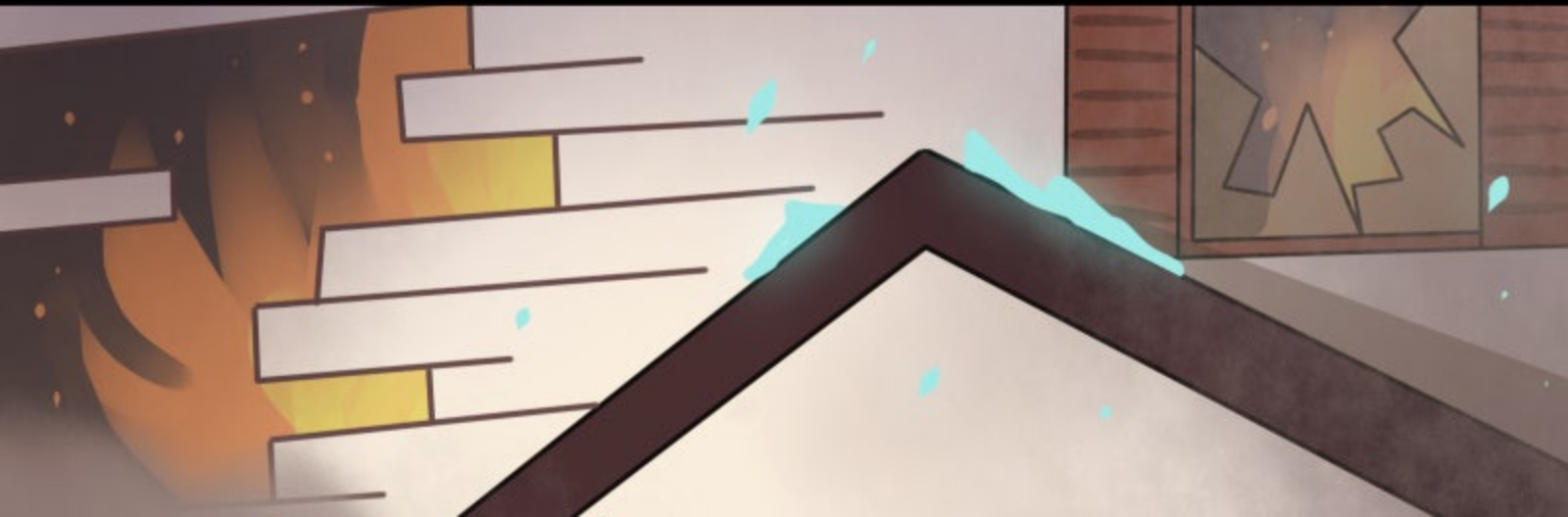
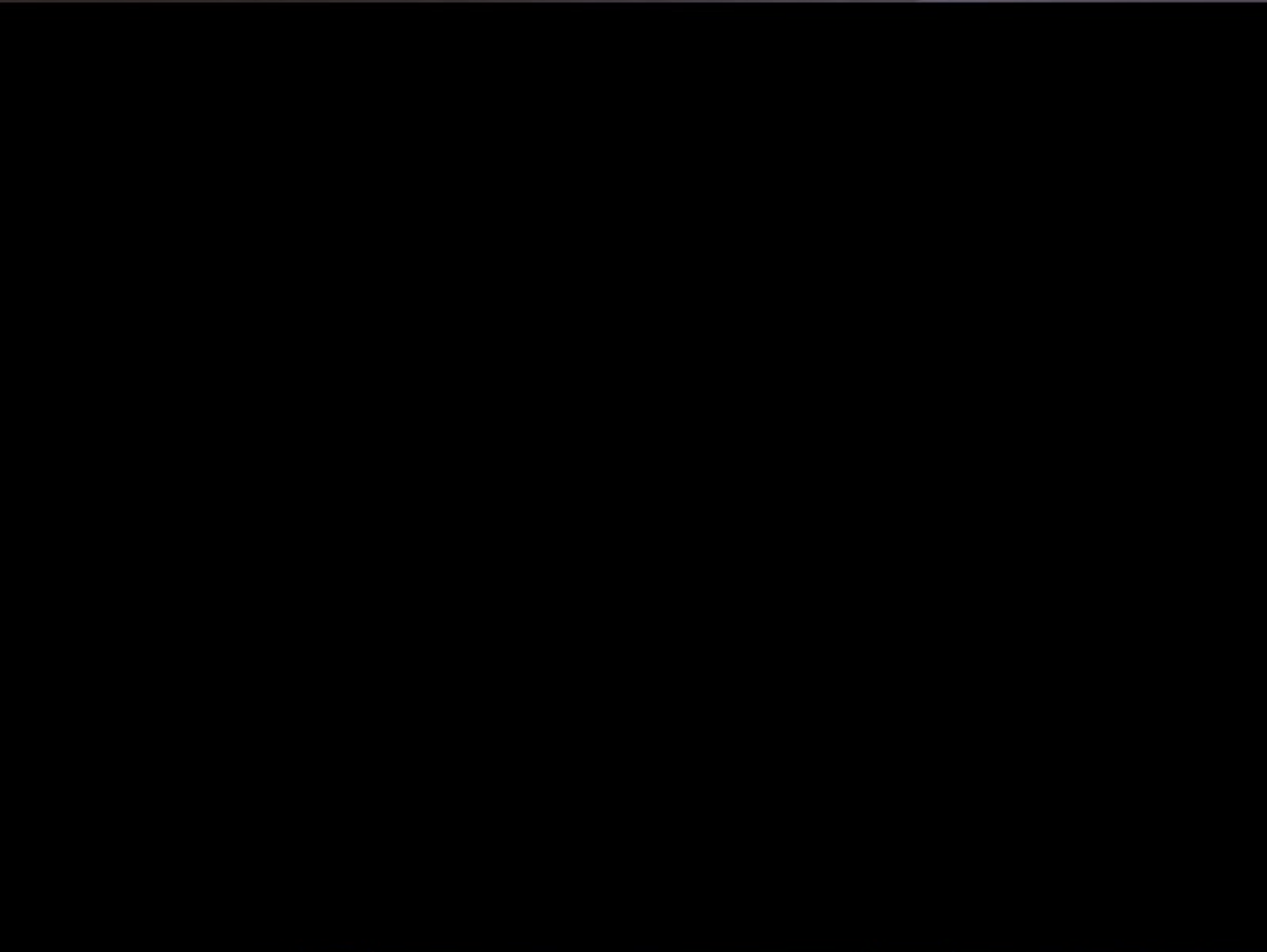








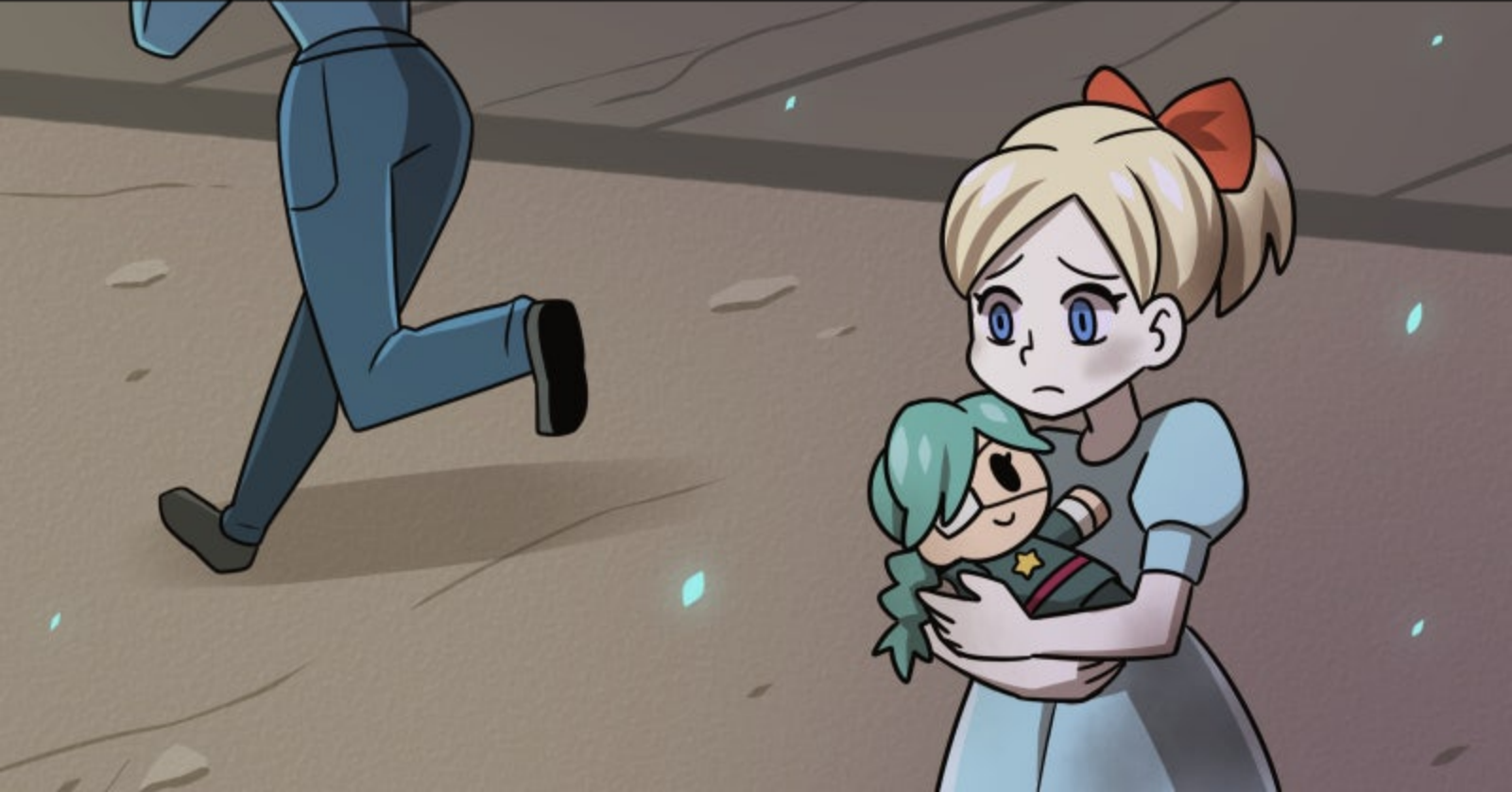




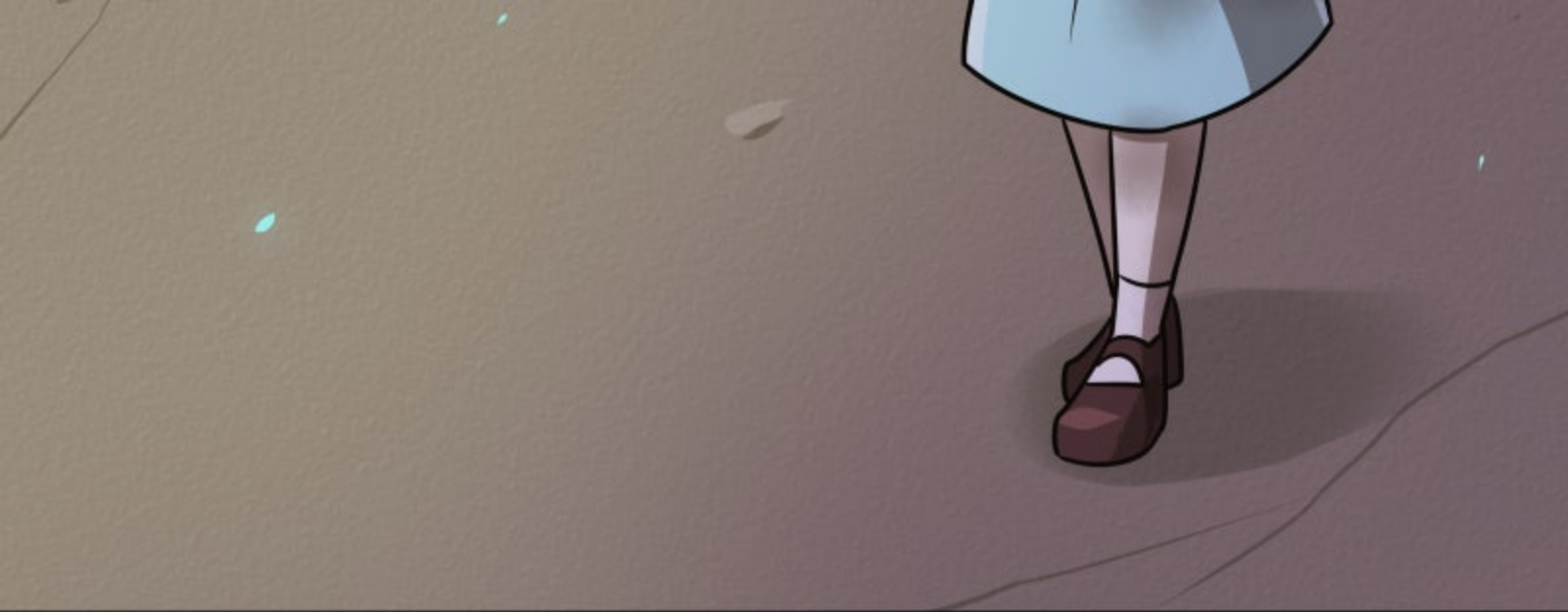


















EXCUSE ME,  
YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT I  
HAVE THE LATEST REPORT  
OF THE ONGOING RELIEF  
EFFORTS.





MOLLY IS  
ASSISTING THE LOCAL  
CONSTABULARY WITH  
THEIR COMMUNICATION  
LINES, BOLSTERING THE  
SIGNAL BETWEEN  
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL  
AND THEIR RESPECTIVE  
CENTRAL HUBS.

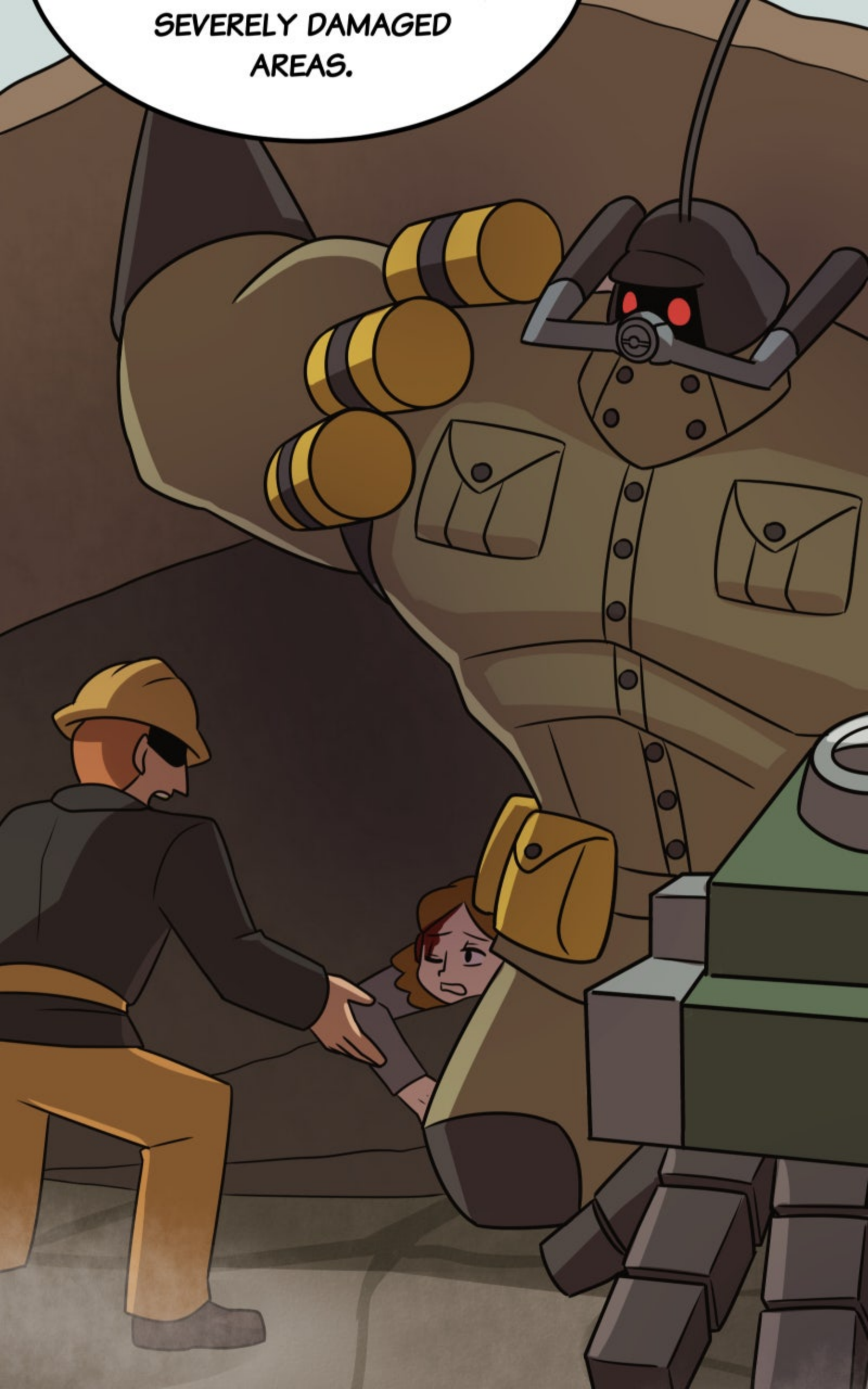




PANZERFAUST IS  
PROVING TO BE A VITAL  
ASSET IN AIDING RESCUE  
AND CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS  
IN THE MOST HAZARDOUS,

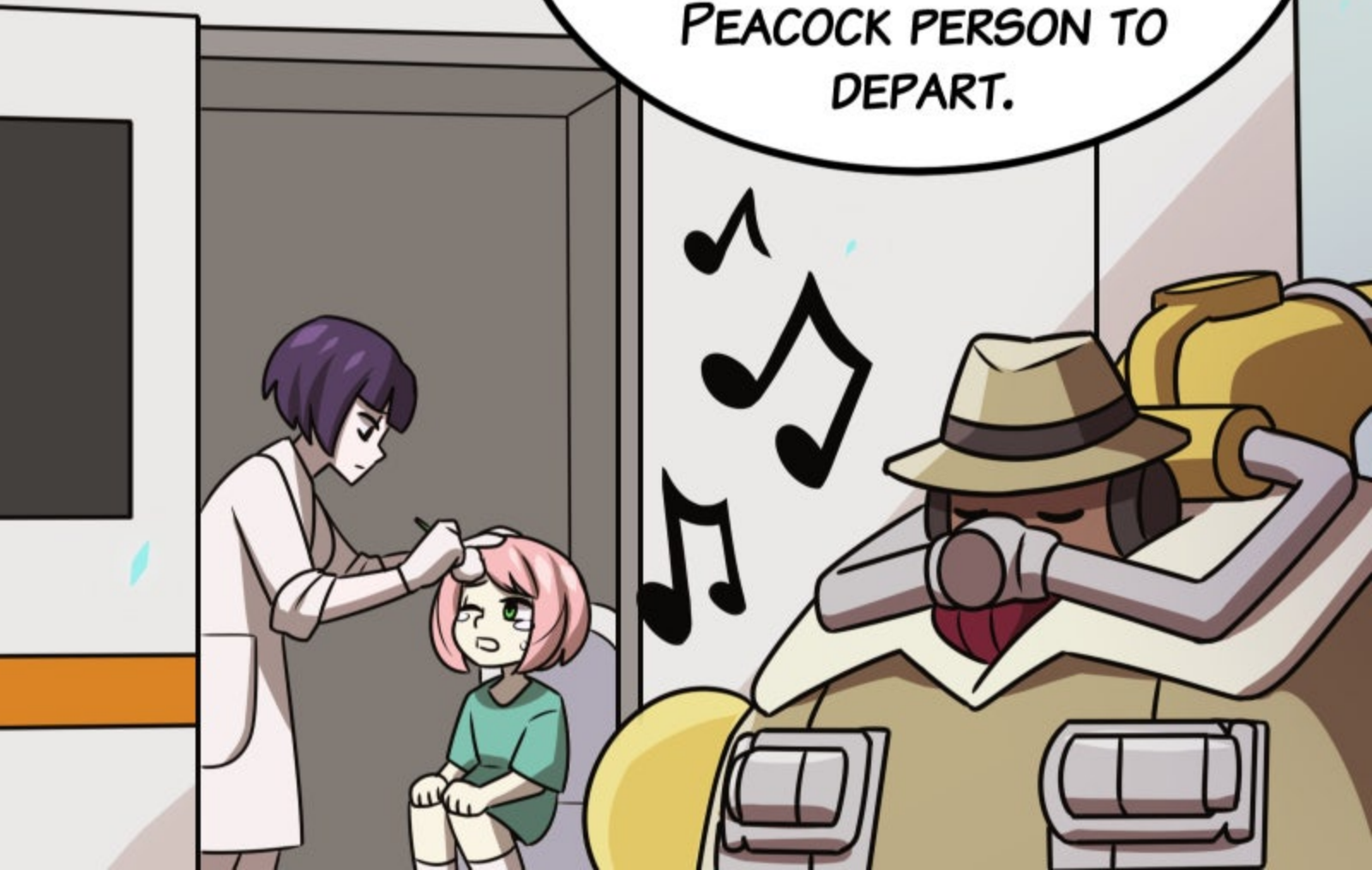


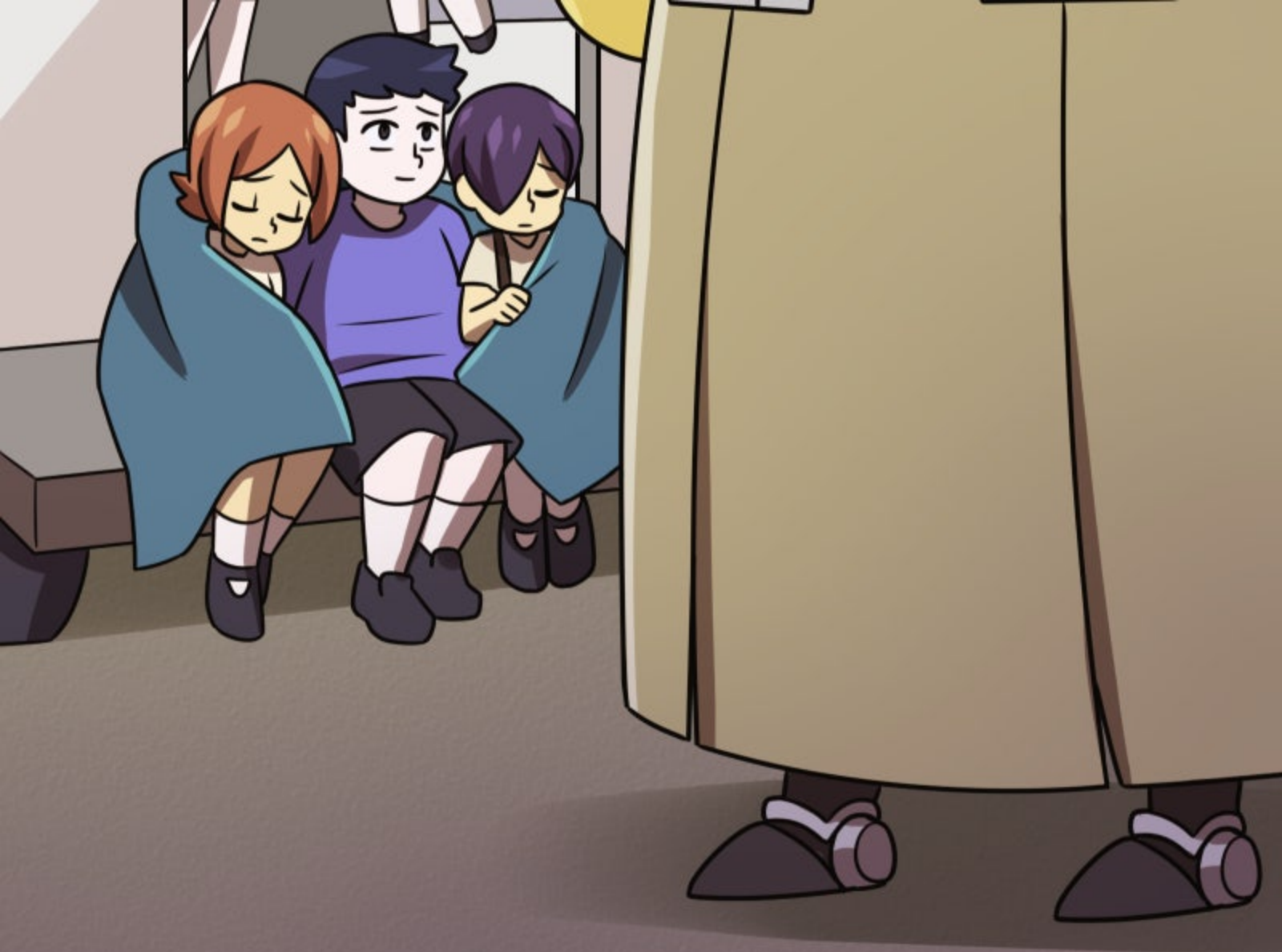
SEVERELY DAMAGED  
AREAS.





EVEN BIG BAND IS  
DOING HIS PART, THOUGH  
HE DID REQUEST I  
REITERATE HIS OBJECTION  
TO ALLOWING THAT  
PEACOCK PERSON TO  
DEPART.





FRANKLY, I CAN'T  
FATHOM WHY HE'D  
WANT SOMEONE WITH  
SUCH A **VOLATILE**  
PERSONALITY HANGING  
ABOUT.







ER, YOUR  
HIGHNESS?





MY APOLOGIES,  
ADAM. YOU AND THE  
OTHERS SHOULD BE  
COMMENDED FOR THE  
WORK YOU'VE DONE. THAT  
YOU CONTINUE TO DO.







BUT IT'S NOT  
ENOUGH.







WHAT DO YOU MEAN?  
HAVE I OVERLOOKED SOME  
VITAL COMPONENT OF OUR  
MISSION? I'LL ADD IT TO  
MY DOCKET!

IN A WAY, YES. I'M  
STARTING TO THINK ALL  
WE'RE DOING IS CLEANING  
UP MESSSES. WE'RE NOT  
ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHING  
MUCH OF ANYTHING.



IF WE WANT TO  
STOP TRAGEDIES LIKE  
THIS FROM OCCURRING  
IT'S GOT TO HAPPEN AT  
THE SOURCE.







SO MAYBE WE CAN STOP  
BEING SO DAMN REACTIVE  
TO EVERYTHING.

BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS,  
IF YOU'LL RECALL WE...  
WE TRIED THAT WITH THE  
MEDICI AND IT DIDN'T  
GO SO WELL.





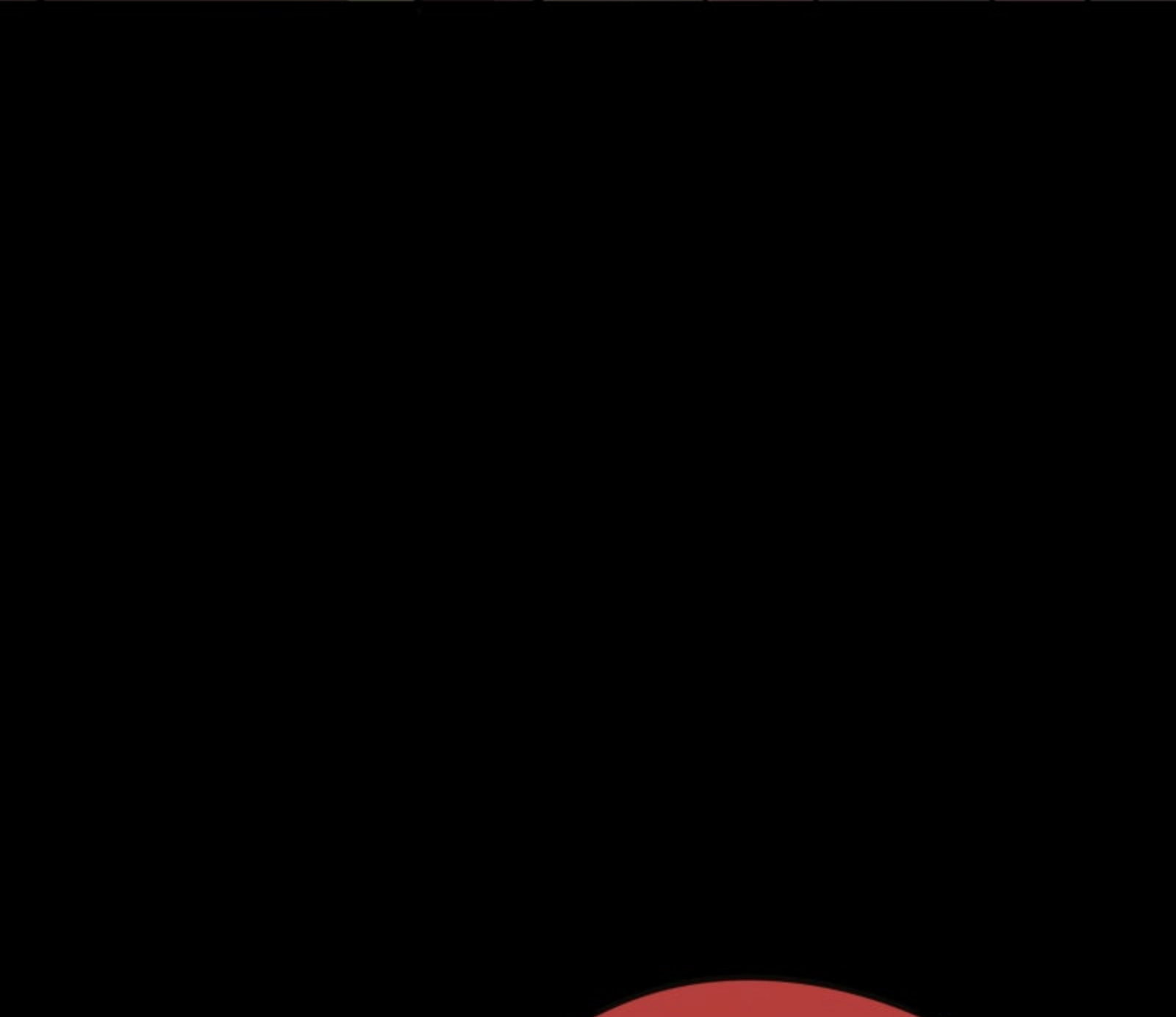




I KNOW, BUT WE CAN'T  
LET OUR MISSTEPS BE  
AN EXCUSE TO STOP  
MOVING FORWARD.

A comic book panel showing a conversation between two characters. On the left, a boy with short grey hair and a green jacket looks towards the right. On the right, a girl with long red hair in pigtails, wearing a black turtleneck with a white cross on the chest, looks back at him with a determined expression. They are standing in front of a school building with a bell tower. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the girl at the top and one from the boy below it.

GET ME BIG BAND.  
WE'RE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY  
FOR LAB 8. WE'LL FIND A WAY  
TO TRACK THE SKULLGIRL  
DOWN.





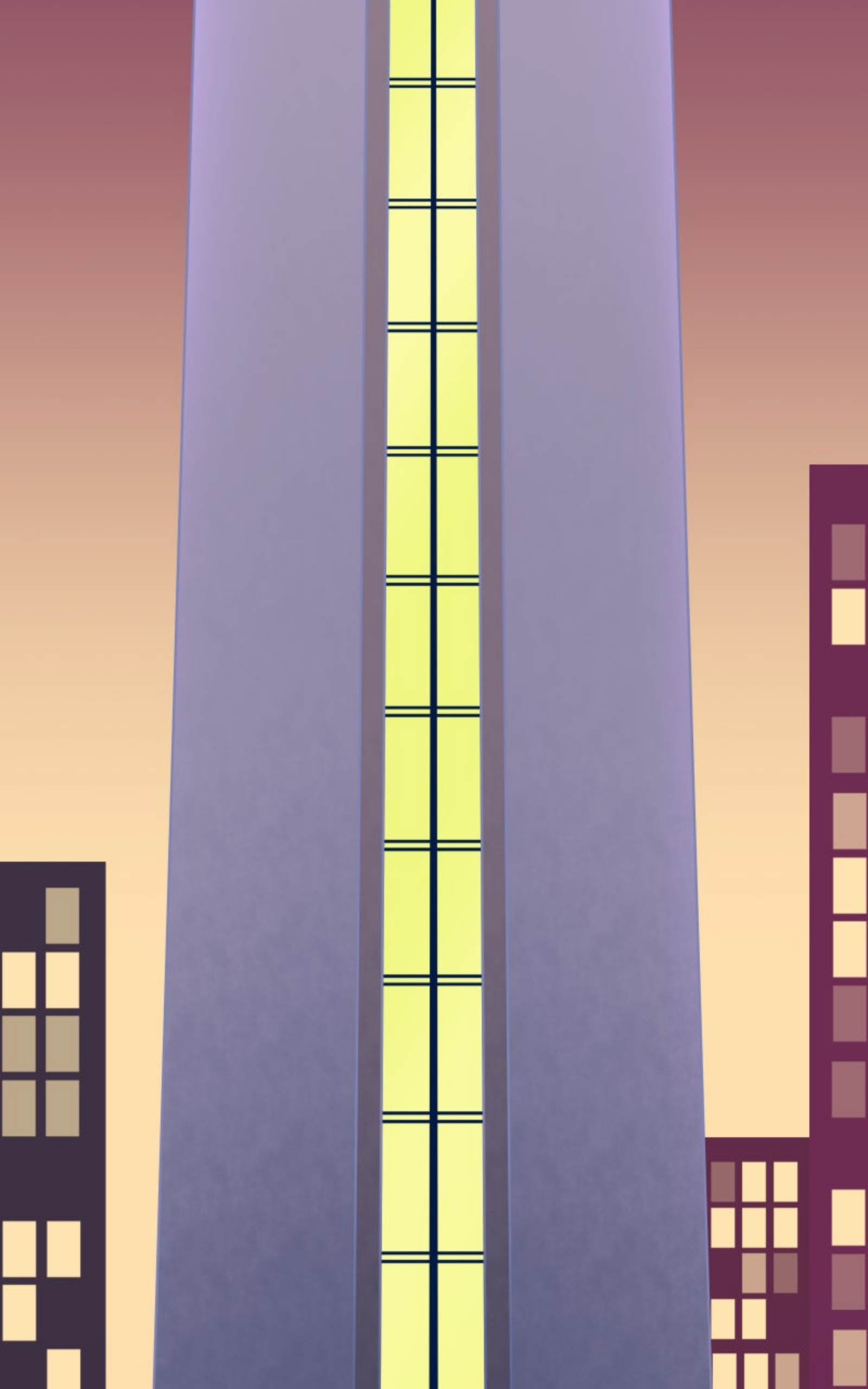


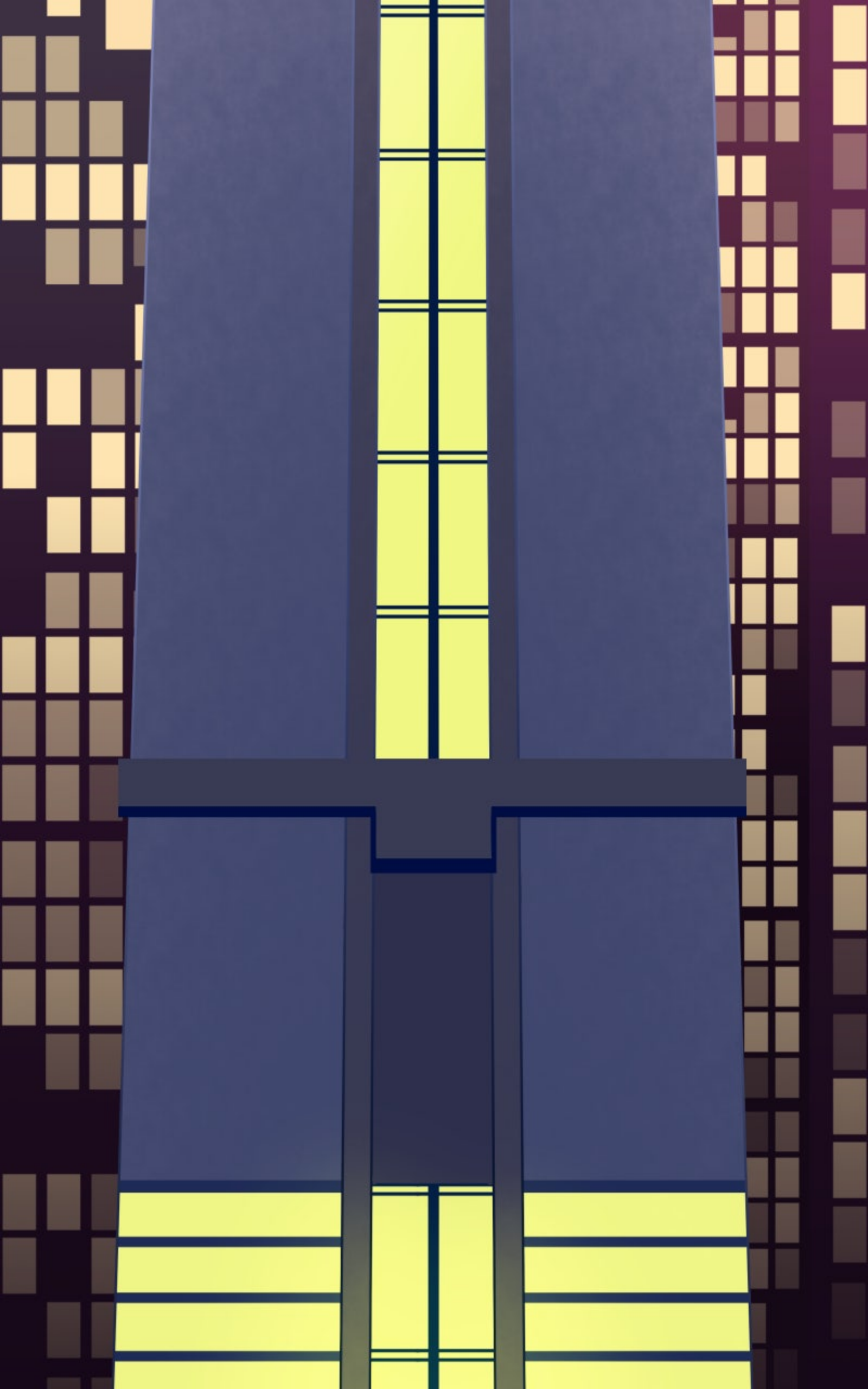
AND END THIS.



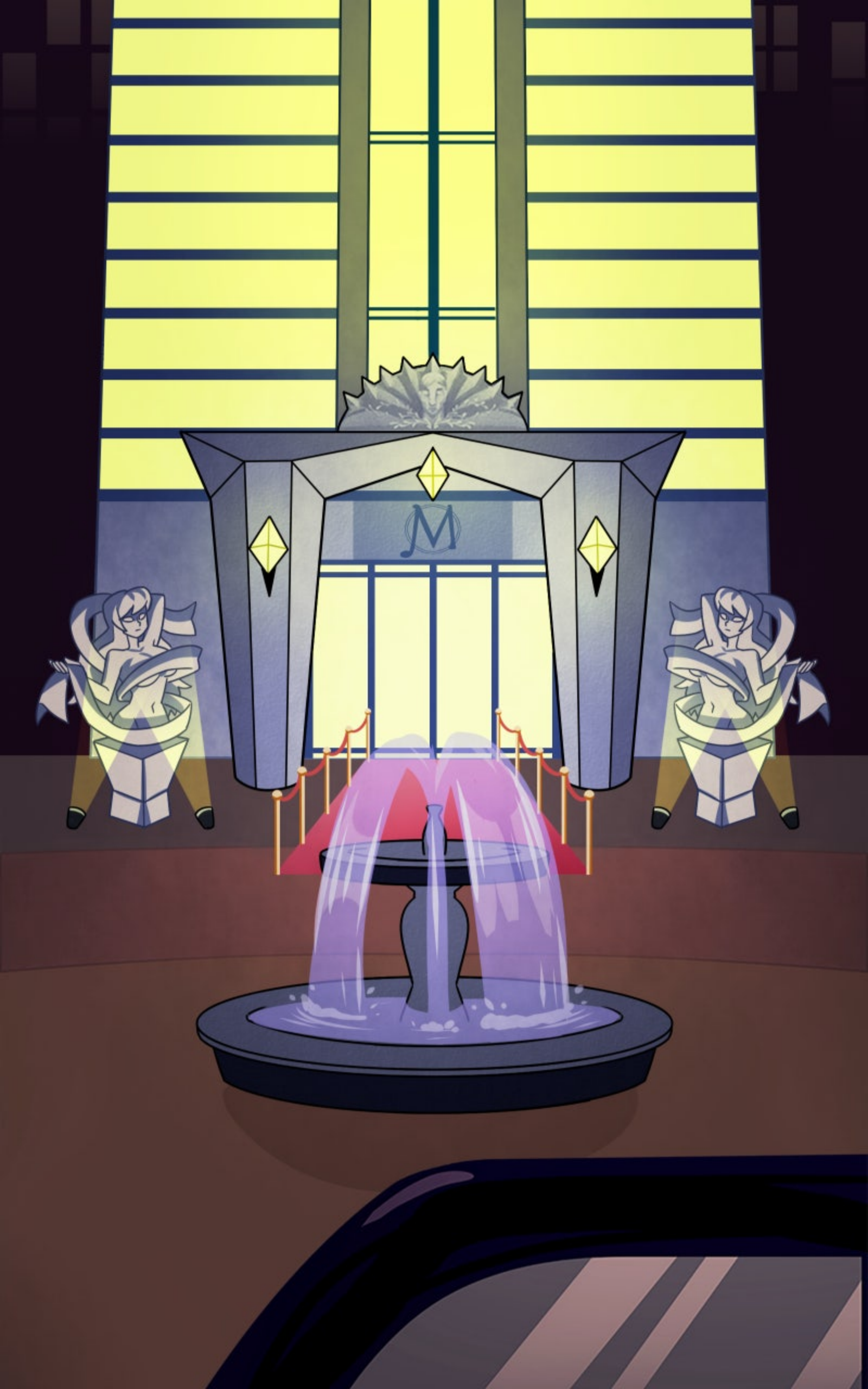












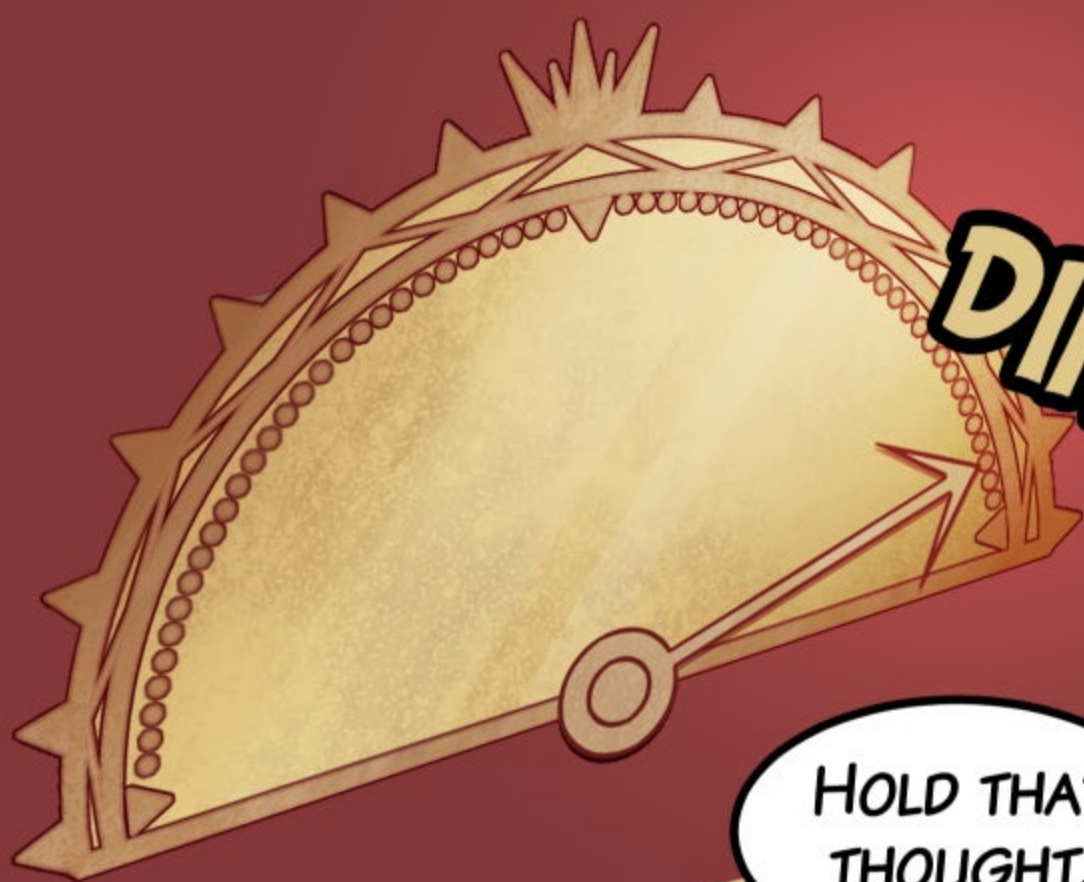


YOU GOT THAT FILE  
I ASKED FOR?

RIGHT HERE, BUT I  
DON'T SEE WHAT--







**DING!**

HOLD THAT  
THOUGHT.

LADIES!  
WELCOME BACK TO  
CIVILIZATION.







COME NOW, DON'T  
LEAVE ME IN SUSPENSE.  
THIS GETTING OLD  
THING HAS GOTTEN OLD.  
WHERE'S MY GEM?







MR. MEDICI,  
THERE WERE UNFORESEEN  
CIRCUMSTANCES AND  
WE... THAT IS TO SAY I  
WASN'T ABLE TO RETRIEVE  
THE ITEM.

I TAKE FULL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR OUR FAILURE

FOR COURTESY,  
AND--

[illegible]





YOU'D DAMN  
WELL BETTER,  
SINCE OUR  
FAILURE WAS ALL  
YOUR FAULT!





DON'T OVERSTEP,  
YOU MUSCLEBOUND--





YOU WANT  
TO GO? 'CUZ  
WE CAN DO  
THIS ANYTIME,  
ANYPLACE!



QUIET!







YOU TWO ARE  
TESTING MY LAST  
NERVE! I ASKED YOU TO  
DO ONE THING... ONE  
**THING**, AND YOU  
COULDN'T EVEN DO  
THAT! YOU WANT THIS  
FAMILY TO FALL APART?  
IS THAT IT?!







...to you that I don't do that part of a job...  
...that I don't do that part of a job...  
...that I don't do that part of a job...  
...that I don't do that part of a job...  
...that I don't do that part of a job...

...actually available to you that I don't do that...  
...actually available to you that I don't do that...  
...actually available to you that I don't do that...  
...actually available to you that I don't do that...  
...actually available to you that I don't do that...



BECAUSE THAT'S --  
HACK! -- WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN IF -- HACK  
HACK HACK!











WHAT I NEED  
ARE PEOPLE I  
CAN RELY ON.



BUT FOR NOW  
I'LL WORK WITH  
WHAT I'VE GOT.

ELIZA, YOU AND  
CEREBELLA GET BACK OUT  
THERE AND FIND MY GEM.  
MAYBE THOSE MOPES FENCED  
IT, OR STASHED IT  
SOMEPLACE. UNTIL YOU FIND  
IT, IT'S YOUR ONLY PRIORITY.  
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS, YOU  
HEAR ME? NOTHING!









AND ME, LORENZO?  
WHAT DO YOU NEED  
ME TO DO?

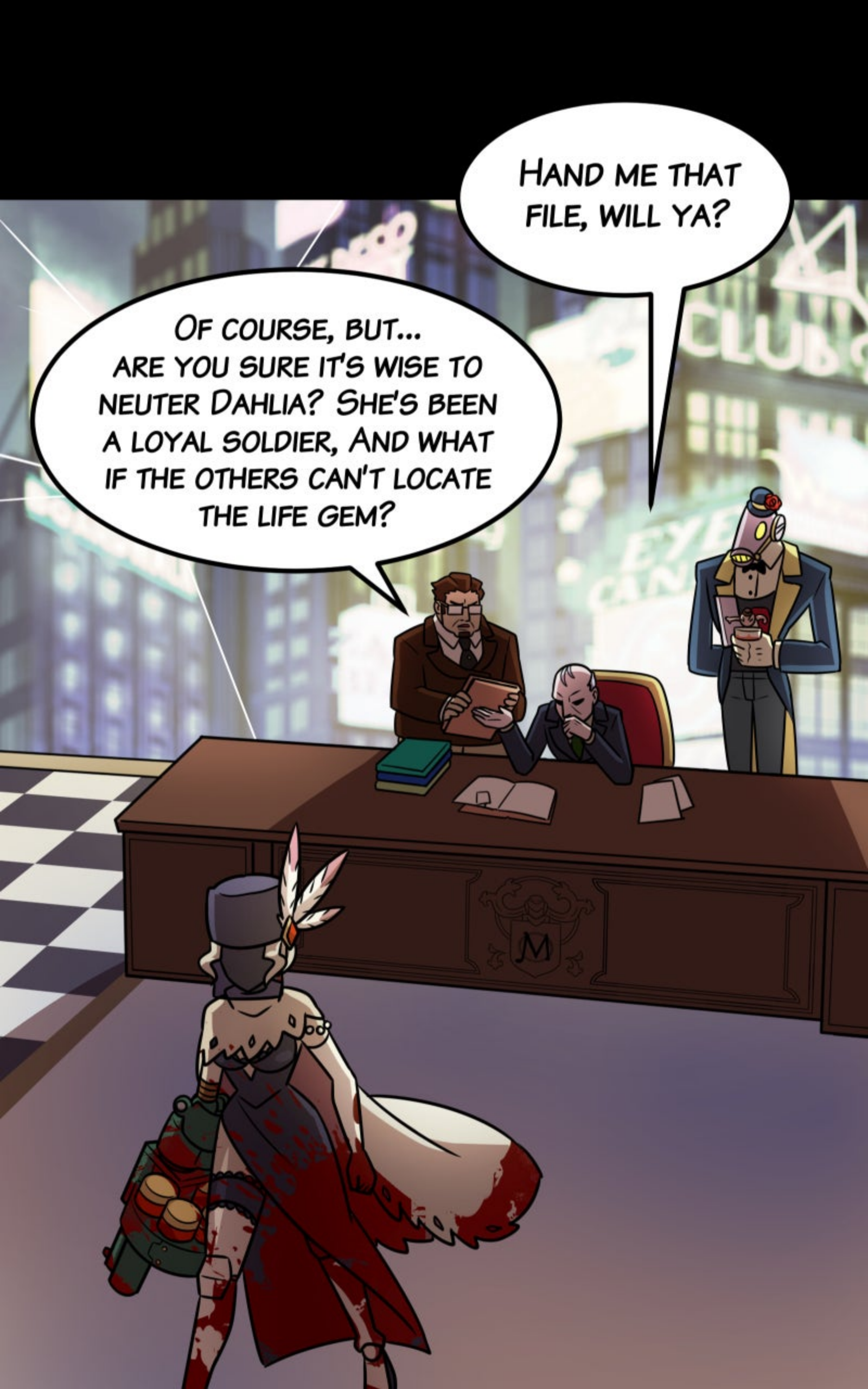












HAND ME THAT  
FILE, WILL YA?

OF COURSE, BUT...  
ARE YOU SURE IT'S WISE TO  
NEUTER DAHLIA? SHE'S BEEN  
A LOYAL SOLDIER, AND WHAT  
IF THE OTHERS CAN'T LOCATE  
THE LIFE GEM?



YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.  
I SAID I HAD A PLAN, DIDN'T I?  
AND BELIEVE YOU ME, SON...







IT'S KILLER.

# River King Contingency









## ✎ CREDITS ✎



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